

Alameda County SSI Advocacy

Homeless Action Center (HAC)
Bay Area Legal Aid (Bay Legal)

Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services

Community Corrections Partnership Program & Services

March 22, 2018

Alameda County SSI Advocacy Outcomes

- ▶ Started January 2012
- ▶ \$22M in retroactive SSI benefits to clients
- ▶ \$84.4M to clients in ongoing SSI benefits

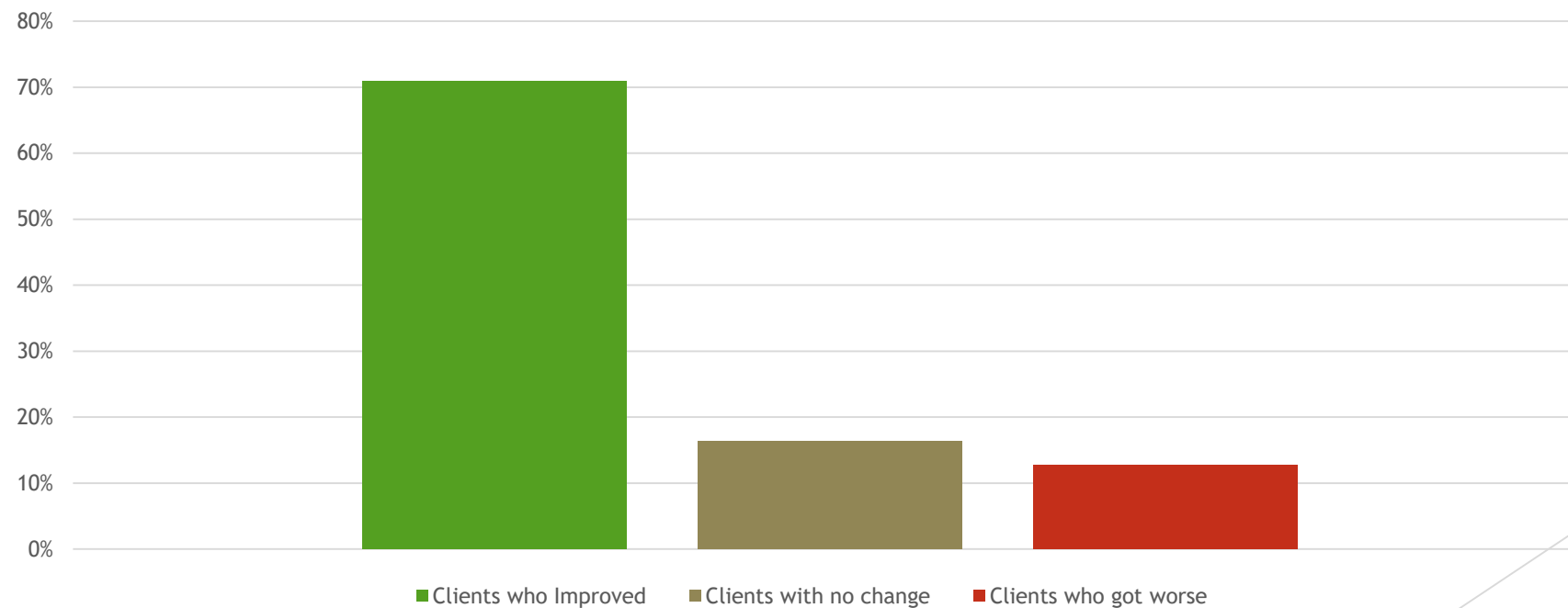
Income Earned for Clients

\$84,410,244

Client Outcomes - Recidivism

- ▶ Comparing 12 months prior to and 12 months after receiving SSI benefits:
- ▶ **70.9% of clients experienced fewer Incarcerations**

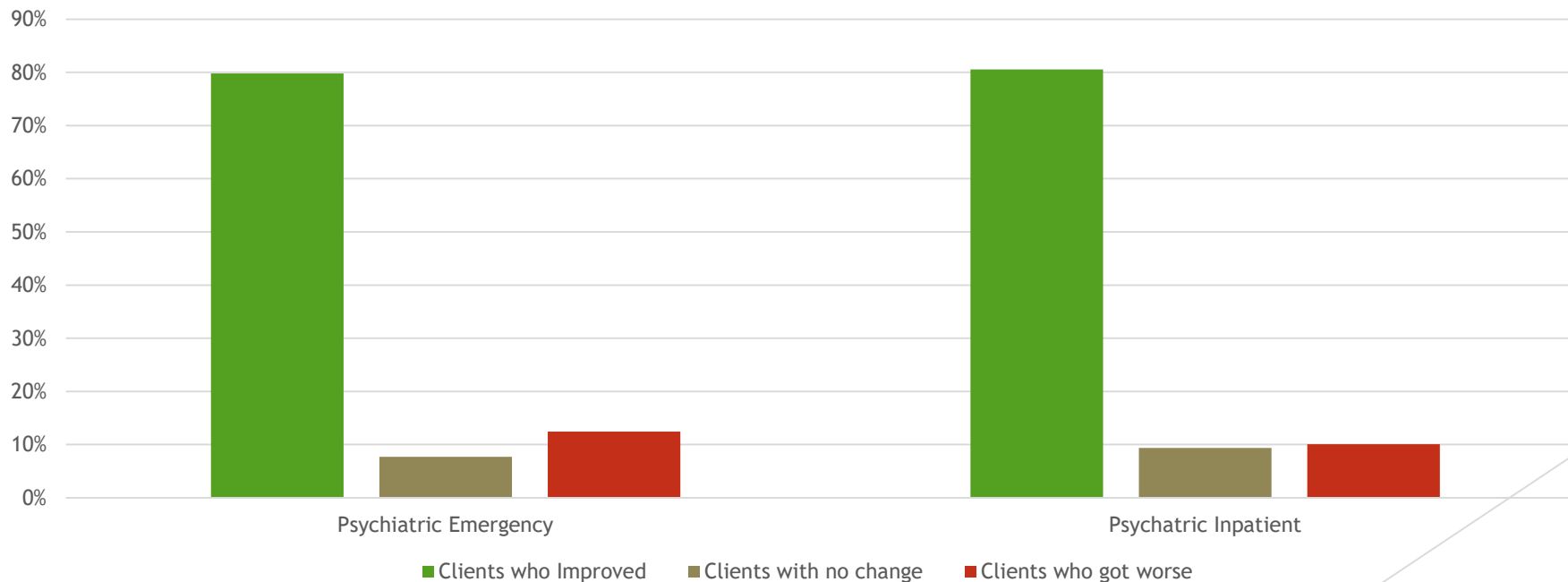
Impact of Disability Benefits on Jail Recidivism



Client Outcomes - Mental Health

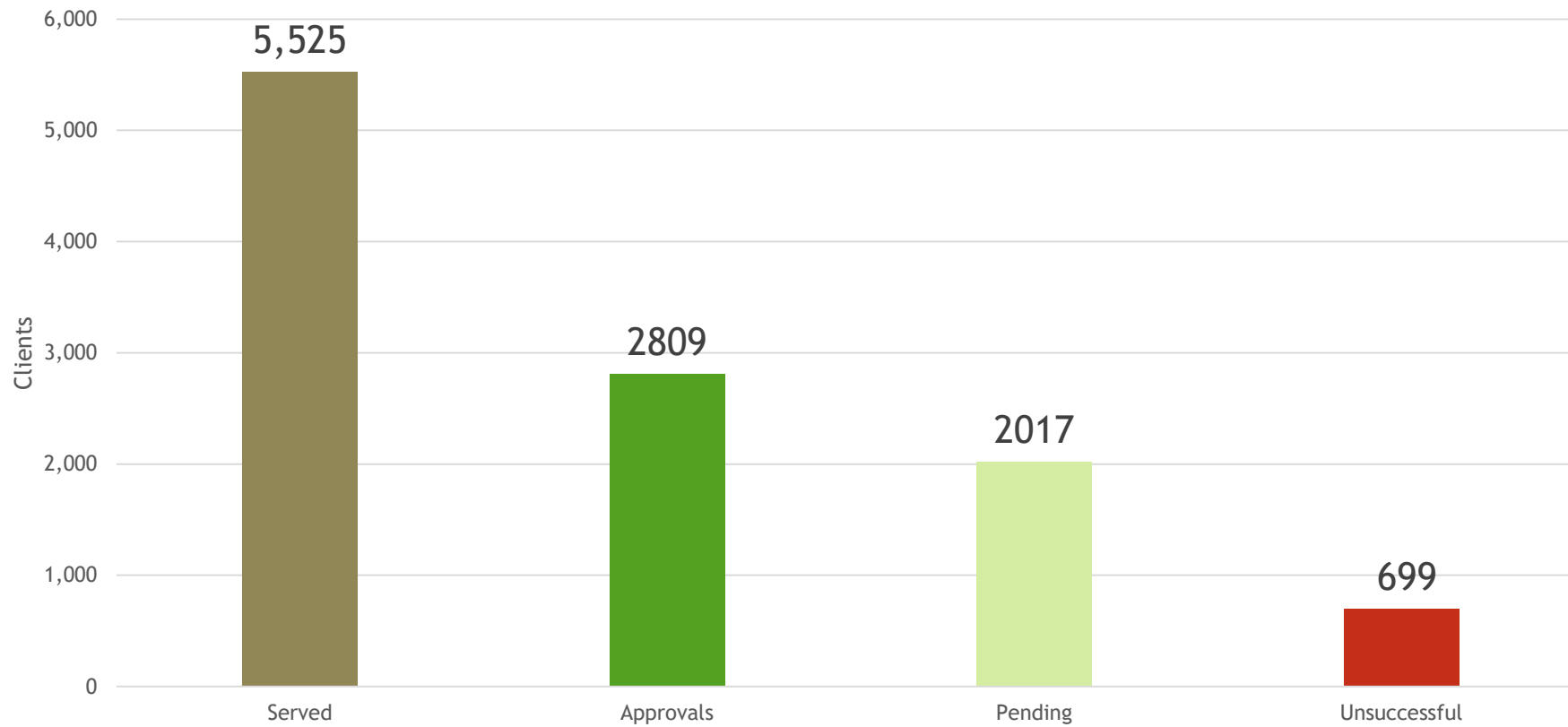
- ▶ Comparing 12 months prior to and 12 months after receiving SSI benefits:
 - ▶ 79.2% of clients experienced fewer Psychiatric Emergencies (5150s)
 - ▶ 80.2% of clients experienced fewer Hospitalizations

Impact of Disability Benefits on Mental Health Crisis Events



SSI Advocacy Program Clients Served

SSI Advocacy Program Overview



Social Security Disability Benefits

SSI (Supplemental Security Income):

- Federal benefit of last resort for people who are disabled or older (65 or over) with limited resources
- Provides monthly cash assistance to people who are unable to work due to a health condition expected to last 12+ months
- Average \$910/month

SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance)

- Insurance program paid into while working
- Monthly benefit amount depends on how much you earned and how recently you worked

How long does the SSI process take?

- ▶ **File initial application** ✓ **6 - 12 months for decision**
- ▶ **If denied, file reconsideration** ✓ **Wait 6 - 12 months for decision**
- ▶ **If denied, file hearing request** ✓ **Wait 9 - 18 months for a hearing before an ALJ**

Alameda County SSI Advocacy Program

1. Disability Attorneys
 - Pre-Release Representation in Santa Rita Jail
2. Integrated Health Care Clinic
3. Mental Health Services with Case Management
4. Increased Interim Assistance

1. SSI Advocacy

- ▶ Began January 2012 with 26 attorneys
- ▶ Current Capacity: 75 attorneys x \$55,000 per FTE
 - ▶ 50 FTE Social Services
 - ▶ 13 FTE BHCS
 - ▶ 12 FTE Reentry
- ▶ Funding
 - ▶ 50% Federal Reimbursement - County Service Block Grant
 - ▶ County General Fund
 - ▶ Mental Health Services Act
 - ▶ AB 109

Reentry SSI Advocacy

- ▶ In February 2016, SSI Advocacy expanded to focus on the reentry population with AB 109 funds
- ▶ Pre-Release Application Process
 - ▶ 12 attorneys conduct in-reach at Santa Rita Jail
 - ▶ Who do we meet with?
 - ▶ Why apply for SSI pre-release?

Reentry Clients Served Since 2016

- ▶ 466: Pre-release SSI applications for inmates at Santa Rita Jail filed
- ▶ 72: Applications for 72 people recently released from Santa Rita Jail filed
- ▶ 95: SSI Approvals

2. Mental Health Services with Case Management - Bay Area Community Services

- ▶ 5 Case Management Units
 - ▶ 1 Supervisor, 3 Clinicians, 3 Peers with lived experience
 - ▶ 80 Client Caseload per Unit
- ▶ Services:
 - ▶ Coordinate care, assist with housing, maintain contact with attorney
- ▶ Funding
 - ▶ Mental Health Services Act (4 Units), AB 109 (1 Unit)
 - ▶ Leveraging Medi-Cal (Specialty Mental Health Services)

3. Integrated Primary Care and Mental Health Clinic - TRUST Clinic

Goals

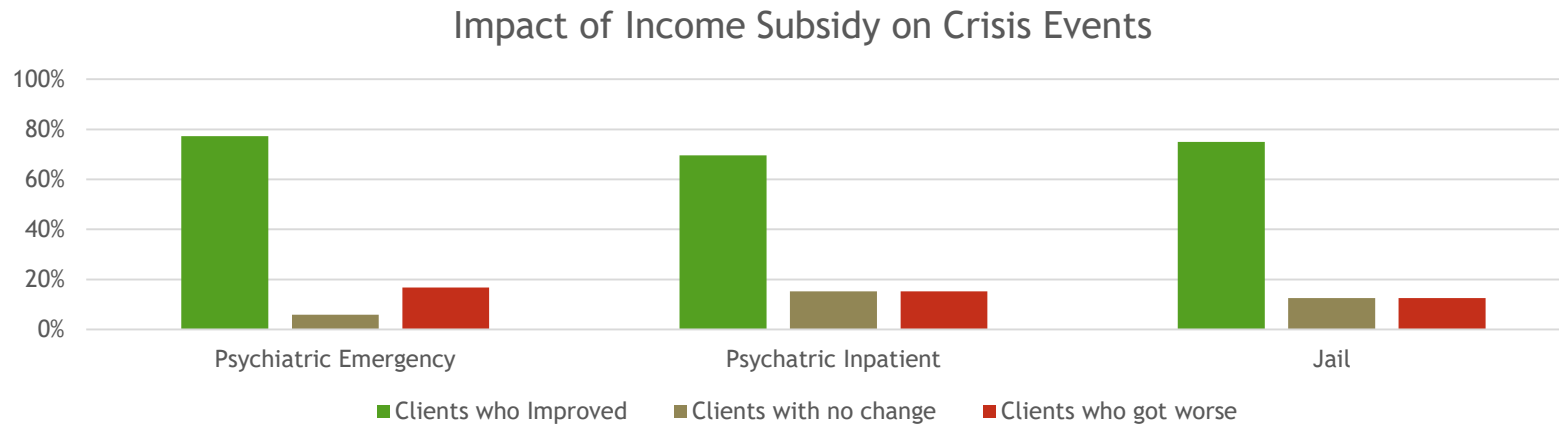
- ▶ Integrated care to mitigate disparities in care for people with mental health issues
- ▶ Document Functional Limitations
- ▶ Harm Reduction

Funding

- ▶ Federally Qualified Health Center
- ▶ Mental Health Services Act

4. Increased Interim Assistance

- ▶ Extra \$318/month on top of General Assistance (\$336) & Food Stamps
- ▶ Provide the benefits of SSI income while waiting for SSI



- ▶ 77.3% experienced fewer Psychiatric Emergencies (5150s)
- ▶ 69.6% experienced fewer Psychiatric Inpatient Stays
- ▶ 75.0% experienced fewer incarcerations
- ▶ **61% reduction in cases closed without securing disability benefits**

How to Refer

1. Complete the Social Security Advocacy referral form
2. Email the form to Sakara Sampson at:
 - ▶ Sakara.Sampson2@acgov.org
3. Referrals will be reviewed and forwarded to the attorneys
4. Confirmation of processed referrals will be emailed

Unmet Need for Reentry SSI Advocacy

- ▶ **6,637** people incarcerated in Santa Rita in the last 2 years have been identified as disabled and do not currently have Disability Benefits
 - ▶ 2,816 of these individuals previously received SSI
 - ▶ 2,234 must start SSI advocacy process again (because 12+ months have elapsed since discontinuance)
 - ▶ 582 are eligible for reinstatement (because within 12 months of discontinuance)
- ▶ **869 (13.1%)** are currently represented by an SSI attorney
 - ▶ 432 Advocacy Slots are funded by AB109 (with leverage)

Thank you! Questions?

Kyle Kitson

Homeless Action Center

(510) 540-0878

kkitson@homelessactioncenter.org

Raegan Joern

Bay Area Legal Aid

(510) 250-5283

rjoern@baylegal.org

Janet Biblin

Alameda County Behavioral Health
Care Services

(510) 383-1598

Janet.Biblin@acgov.org